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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE OCI #0941/72
26 July 1972Fock Vacations in Romania

Hungarian Premier Jeno Fock's arrival in Budapest on Monday for a vacation seems intended to underscore the improved relations between the two capitals. Ties were severely ruffled last summer, when Hungarian Politburo member Komocsin, apparently acting at Soviet behest, publicly criticized Bucharest. A short period of open polemics ensued, but soon gave way to efforts at glossing over differences. These efforts were capped by Kadar's visit to Romania early this spring for the renewal of the bilateral friendship treaty.

Combining business with pleasure, Fock will be anxious to talk over economic relations, get the inside scoop on the Romanian party conference, and exchange notes on relations with the US. Current activities in CEMA and recent European developments should be other prime topics.

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Czechoslovakia - Liberia Establish Diplomatic Relations?

Liberian Foreign Minister Weeks claimed on 23 July that the year-old Tolbert administration has established diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia. Alluding to the accomplishments of the government's first year in office, Weeks cited the "establishment of diplomatic relations with the USSR, Romania and Czechoslovakia." The new tie between Prague and Monrovia has yet to be confirmed in Czechoslovakia, although a report in May noted the possibility of such a move.

Romanian-Liberian relations were initiated on 30 April, and a Soviet-Liberian "Joint Communique" on 8 June stated that the newly established relations would be announced sometime after 23 July. An early exchange of Czechoslovak-Liberian ambassadors would be in line with the new trend in Liberian foreign policy vis-a-vis Eastern Europe inaugurated by the Tolbert government.

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"No, this is not Helmut's Bierstube"

The communications barriers between citizens of the FRG and GDR and the two halves of Berlin continue to fall. On Monday West Berliners began direct telephone dialing to parts of East Germany. In 1952 the GDR disconnected the 3910 lines which linked West Berlin with the outside world. Resumption of these links has been the subject of long and contentious negotiations. The first breakthrough came in January 1971 when the GDR restored 10 (of 3910) lines. Throughout the year, the number of lines was gradually increased and in December 1971 East Berliners began direct dialing to West Berlin. The number of lines between the GDR and FRG has also been increased, and now stands at 110. Although there is not yet any direct dialing on this latter system, automated equipment is to be installed by the end of 1974.

Pankow will no doubt closely monitor the effects of closer East-West German contacts on the attitudes of the population toward the SED and its policies. If it determines that these are not a security threat, further freedom of contact will probably follow. These contacts will not, however, change the regime's approach toward Abgrenzung, i.e. the claim that the two states are totally separate and independent.

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